

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VICTOR 00070 300931Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INR-07 SS-15 DODE-00 /038 W
-----087215 310107Z /14

R 300715Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO NAVOCEANO SUITLAND MD
SECSTATE WASHDC 0704
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0070

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PARM, SE, XO
SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT/AIRCREW CLEARANCE REQUEST

REF: A) NAVOCEANO WASHINGTON DC LTR SER 869 OF 6 JAN 1978
B) NAVOCEANO SUITLAND MD DTG 272017Z JAN 78 (NOTAL)

1. REF A RE AIRBORNE/ACOUSTIC SURVEY OF PHILIPPINE SEA, SOUTH CHINA SEA AND INDIAN OCEAN RECEIVED VICTORIA JAN 25.
2. REF B REQUESTED DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR USE OF SEYCHELLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS "OPERATIONAL ALTERNATIVE" FOR FLIGHT FROM DIEGO GARCIA TO MOMBASSA IN TIME FRAME 16-24 MARCH 1978.
3. REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEMILITARIZATION OF INDIAN OCEAN EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN SEYCHELLES IN LATE MARCH. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE LEFTIST MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT, COMMUNIST PARTY FROM REUNION AND RULING PARTIES FROM MADAGASCAR AND COMOROS, IN ADDITION TO SEYCHELLES. SEYCHELLES MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, WHO IS REGARDED AS A LEADING MEMBER LEFT WING OF GOS, ATTENDED PRELIMINARY MEETING IN ANTANANARIVO JAN 23-25.
4. SINCE IT CAN BE ANTICIPATED THAT WESTERN MILITARY/NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA WILL BE A MAJOR AGENDA ITEM, BELIEVE IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR U.S. TO MAINTAIN LOWEST POS-
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SIBLE MILITARY PROFILE DURING THIS PERIOD. PRESENCE IN SEYCHELLES OF USN AIRCRAFT AROUND TIME OF CONFERENCE WOULD THEREFORE BE PARTICULARLY UNTIMELY, WOULD NO DOUBT COME TO ATTENTION OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND MIGHT JEOPARDIZE GOS RECEPTIVITY TO REQUESTS FOR FUTURE VISITS BY USN/USAF AIRCRAFT AND WARSHIPS. IN ADDITION, AIRCRAFT PRESENCE COULD CONSTITUTE EMBARRASSMENT TO SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS THUS FAR ADOPTED UNIFORMLY FORTH-

COMING ATTITUDE TO MILITARY CLEARANCE REQUESTS. ACCORDINGLY,
UNLESS DEPARTMENT DIRECTS OTHERWISE, POST WILL NOT RPT NOT
INITIATE CLEARANCE REQUEST.

5. REQUEST COMMENTS OF EMBASSY NAIROBI TO THIS MESSAGE.
MATTSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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